

# Obenshain Requests Full Disclosure

By Helen Dewar

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Virginia Republican Chairman Richard D. Obenshain, citing "rapidly increasing concern" about the Watergate bugging case within the state party, said yesterday he hopes President Nixon will disclose all facts in the case.

Only three weeks ago Obenshain said he had "not received one comment" from Virginia Republicans about the bugging incident.

Since then, however, Obenshain said in response to a reporter's question, the "level of concern has started getting very high ... local

Republican committees have started passing resolutions saying, 'Please do something'."

"The apparent reluctance to disclose the situation is having a serious impact on the credibility of the President and thus the Republican Party," said Obenshain.

Obenshain made his comments before the White House announced that executive privilege would not be invoked to keep presidential aides from testifying before the Senate committee probing the bugging last summer of the Democratic national headquarters at the Watergate. The state chairman

could not be reached for comment after the President's announcement.

Obenshain, a conservative, said Sen. Barry Goldwater's recent criticism of White House handling of the case triggered strong reaction among Virginia Republicans.

"When Barry Goldwater ripped into it," said Obenshain, "people felt he knew what he was saying and something was wrong."

Obenshain said he did not expect the Watergate case to affect this year's gubernatorial race, in which former Democratic Gov. Mills E. Godwin is expected to win the Republican nomination

to oppose independent Lt. Gov. Henry E. Howell.

But he said he feared that it would adversely affect next year's congressional races across the country.

Godwin has expressed misgivings about the Watergate case and said he might have to reconsider running as a Republican if political fallout from the case worsened, although he didn't expect this would happen.

Other Virginia Republicans who have urged the White House to clear up the case include U.S. Sen. William L. Scott and Reps. Stanford E. Parris of Fairfax and Joel T. Broyhill of Arlington.